

# Profile of Farms in Florida Operated by Persons of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin



2007 Census of Agriculture

## I. About the Census of Agriculture

The 2007 Census of Agriculture was conducted in the first half of calendar year 2008. All farms and ranches in Florida received a questionnaire to complete and return to the Florida Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Those who did not return the questionnaire were contacted by telephone and/or in person.

The Census of Agriculture provides data on farm numbers and land in farms, economics, and demographics. Most data items are summarized at the county and state level.

## II. Principal Farm Operators

Each farm or ranch has a principal farm operator. The principal farm operator is so designated by the person completing the questionnaire. In many cases, the principal farm operator is the owner or one of the co-owners of the farm or ranch. In many cases, it is a farm manager. It is intended to be the person who makes the day-to-day management decisions for the operation.

## III. Hispanic Operated Farms

In the Census of Agriculture, respondents are asked to report the national origin and/or race of the principal farm operator. One category is "Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin". In this report, farms in that category will be referred to as "Hispanic operated farms" and operators of these farms will be referred to as "Hispanic farm operators".

# 1. Characteristics of Hispanic Operated Farms

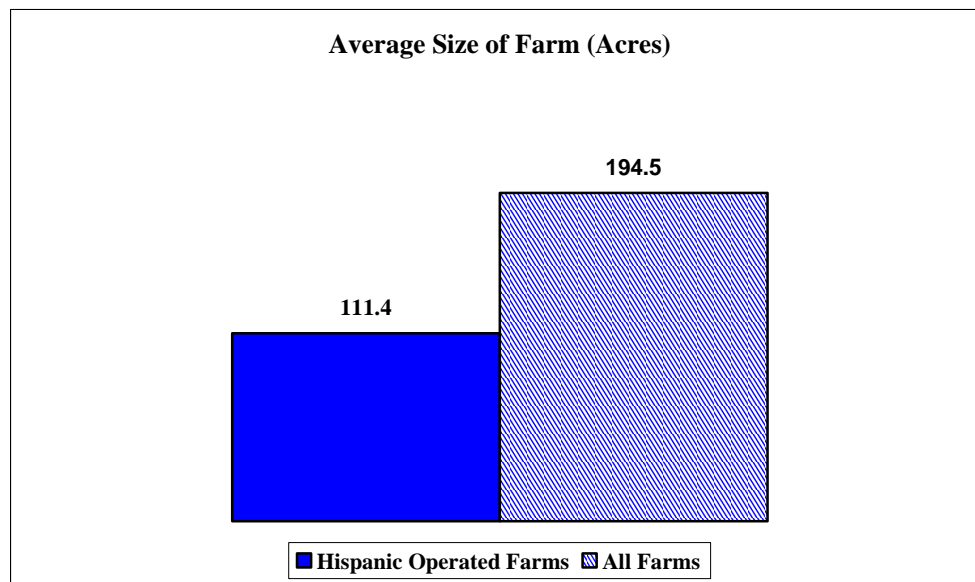
## 1.1 Number of Farms and Land in Farms

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there were 47, 463 farms in Florida, accounting for just over 9.2 million acres. There were 3,161 Hispanic operated farms, accounting for just over 350,000 acres. Hispanic operated farms accounted for 6.7% of all farms in Florida but only 3.8% of the land in farms. The average size of all Florida farms was 194.5 acres compare to 111.4 acres for Hispanic operated farms (Figure 1). The smaller average size of Hispanic operated farms is a reflection of the type of farms operated by Hispanic operators (see section xx of this report).

Table 1: Number and Size of Farms

	Number of Farms		Acres		Average Size of Farm (acres)	
	2007	2002	2007	2002	2007	2002
Hispanic Operated Farms	3,161	2,588	352,184	(D)	111.4	(D)
All Farms	47,463	44,081	9,231,570	10,414,877	194.5	236.3

Figure 1



## 1.2 Distribution of Farms by Size

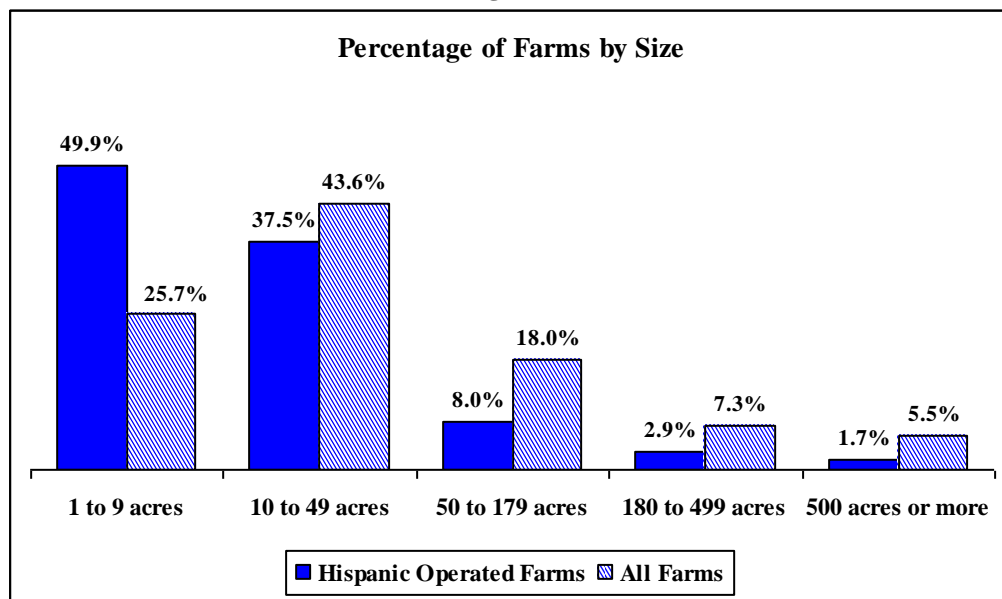
Although the average farm size in Florida is 194.5 acres, there are many more small farms than large farms (Figure 2). Approximately 69% of all farms are less than 50 acres in size and about 26% are less than 10 acres in size. Only 5.5% of all Florida farms are 500 acres or more in size.

Hispanic operated farms tend to be smaller. About 87% of Hispanic operated farms are less than 50 acres and 50% are less than 10 acres in size. Only 1.7% of Hispanic operated farms are 500 or more acres in size.

Table 2: Distribution of Farms by Size

Number of Farms By Size	Number of Farms		Percent of Farms	
	2007	2002	2007	2002
<b>Hispanic Operated Farms</b>				
1 to 9 acres	1,578	1,074	49.9%	41.5%
10 to 49 acres	1,185	1,028	37.5%	39.7%
50 to 179 acres	253	302	8.0%	11.7%
180 to 499 acres	92	85	2.9%	3.3%
500 acres or more	53	99	1.7%	3.8%
<b>All Farms</b>				
1 to 9 acres	12,184	10,267	25.7%	23.3%
10 to 49 acres	20,680	18,360	43.6%	41.7%
50 to 179 acres	8,543	8,776	18.0%	19.9%
180 to 499 acres	3,461	3,684	7.3%	8.4%
500 acres or more	2,595	2,994	5.5%	6.8%

Figure 2



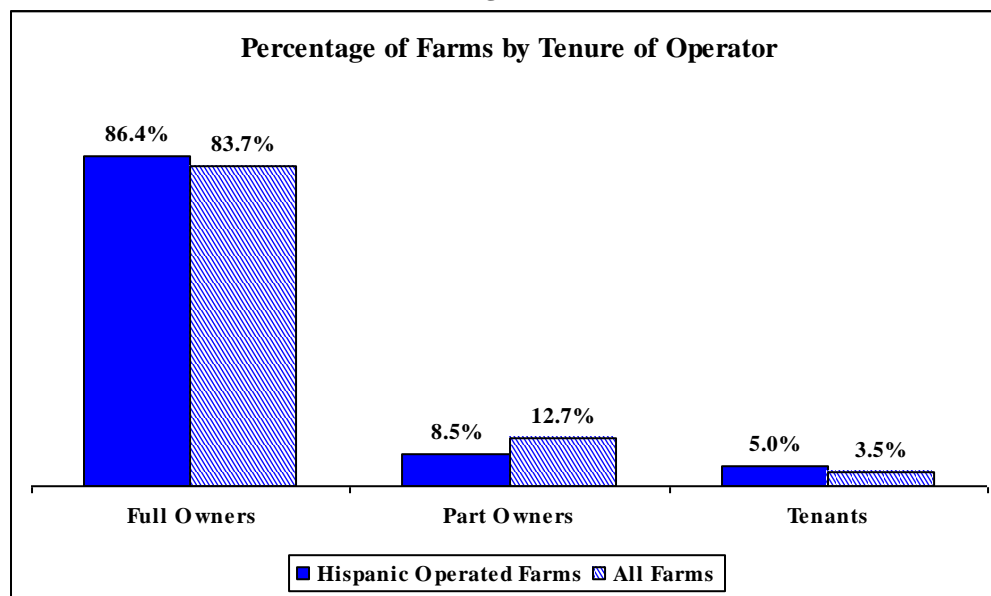
### 1.3 Distribution of Farms by Tenure of Principal Operator

Principal operators in the Census of Agriculture classified themselves as full owners of the farm they operate, part owners, or tenants. The percentage of principal operators who were full owners is about the same for all farms (83.7%) as for Hispanic operated farms (86.4%). The percentage of part owners was slightly lower among Hispanic operated farms (8.5%) than among all farms in Florida (12.7%). The percentage of Hispanic principal farm operators who are tenants was 5.0%, compared to 3.5% among all farms (Figure 3).

Table 3: Distribution of Farms by Tenure of Principal Operator

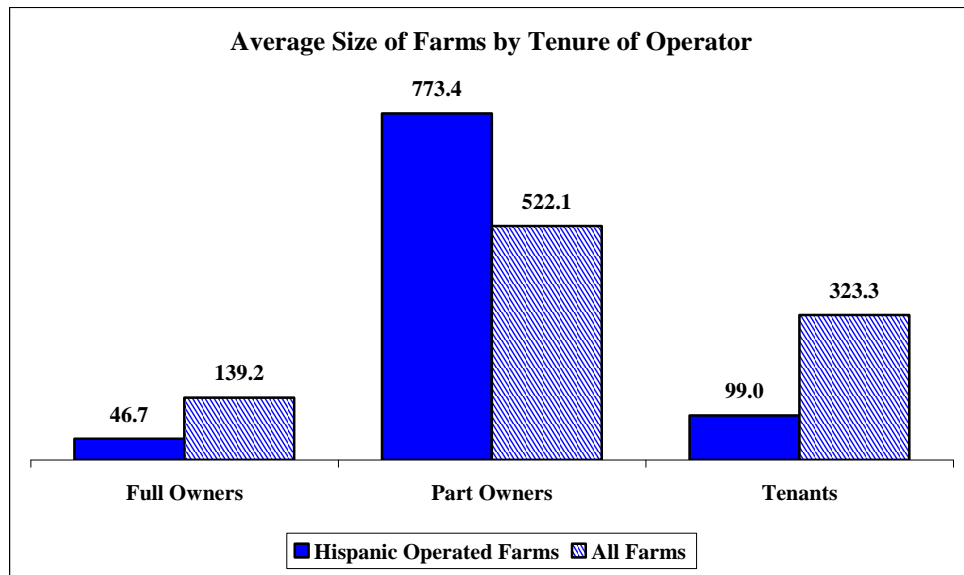
Farms by Tenure	Farms		Percent of Farms		Average Size of Farm	
	2007	2002	2007	2002	2007	2002
Hispanic Operated Farms						
Full Owners	2,732	2,215	86.4%	85.6%	46.7	(D)
Part Owners	270	217	8.5%	8.4%	773.4	586.2
Tenants	159	156	5.0%	6.0%	99.0	80.3
All Farms						
Full Owners	39,746	36,593	83.7%	83.0%	139.2	180.7
Part Owners	6,050	5,510	12.7%	12.5%	522.1	577.5
Tenants	1,667	1,978	3.5%	4.5%	323.3	313.7

Figure 3



While the average farm size among Hispanic operated farms is smaller than the average for all farms, the average farm size among Hispanic operators who are part owners was 773 acres, compared to the average farm size of 522 acres for all principal operators who are part owners (see Figure 4).

Figure 4



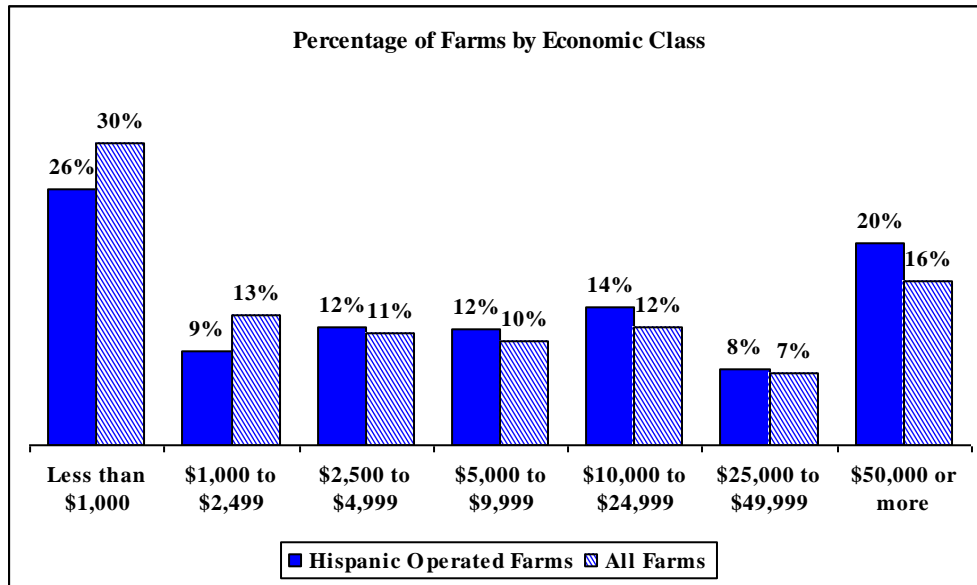
#### 1.4 Distribution of Farms by Economic Class

While Hispanic operated farms tend to be smaller (physically) than farms in general, they tend to be of higher value. Among Hispanic operated farms, only 35% had sales less than \$2,500 and 28% had sales of \$25,000 or more compared to 43% among all farms, and 28% had sales of \$25,000 or more compared to 23% among all farms (Figure 5).

Table 4: Distribution of Farms by Economic Class

Farms by Economic Class	Farms		Percent of Farms	
	2007	2002	2007	2002
<b>Hispanic Operated Farms</b>				
Less than \$1,000	810	586	25.6%	22.6%
\$1,000 to \$2,499	297	378	9.4%	14.6%
\$2,500 to \$4,999	371	275	11.7%	10.6%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	365	219	11.5%	8.5%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	438	378	13.9%	14.6%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	241	254	7.6%	9.8%
\$50,000 or more	639	498	20.2%	19.2%
<b>All Farms</b>				
Less than \$1,000	14,292	11,244	30.1%	25.5%
\$1,000 to \$2,499	6,169	7,525	13.0%	17.1%
\$2,500 to \$4,999	5,303	4,698	11.2%	10.7%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	4,911	4,377	10.3%	9.9%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	5,590	5,288	11.8%	12.0%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	3,459	3,319	7.3%	7.5%
\$50,000 or more	7,739	7,630	16.3%	17.3%

Figure 5

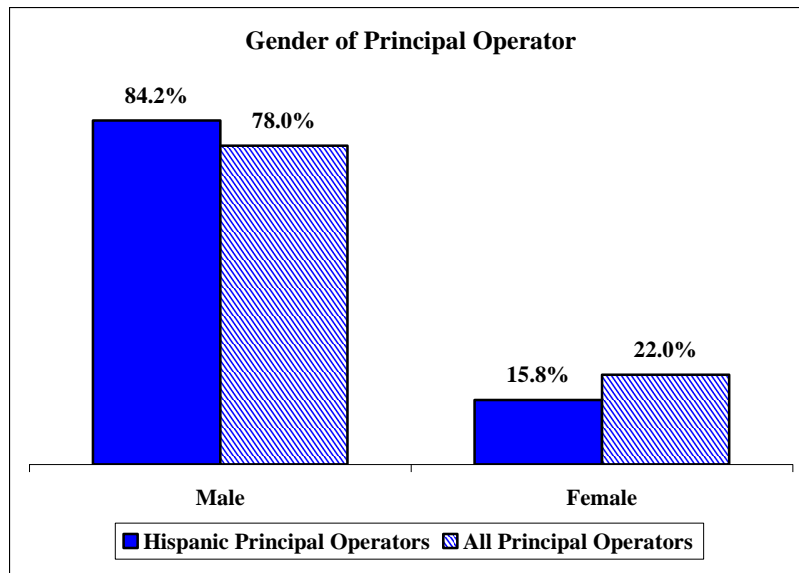


## 2. Characteristics of Hispanic Farm Operators

### 2.1. Gender

In Florida, 78% of all principal farm operators are male. The percentage of Hispanic farm operators who are male is slightly higher, at 84%.

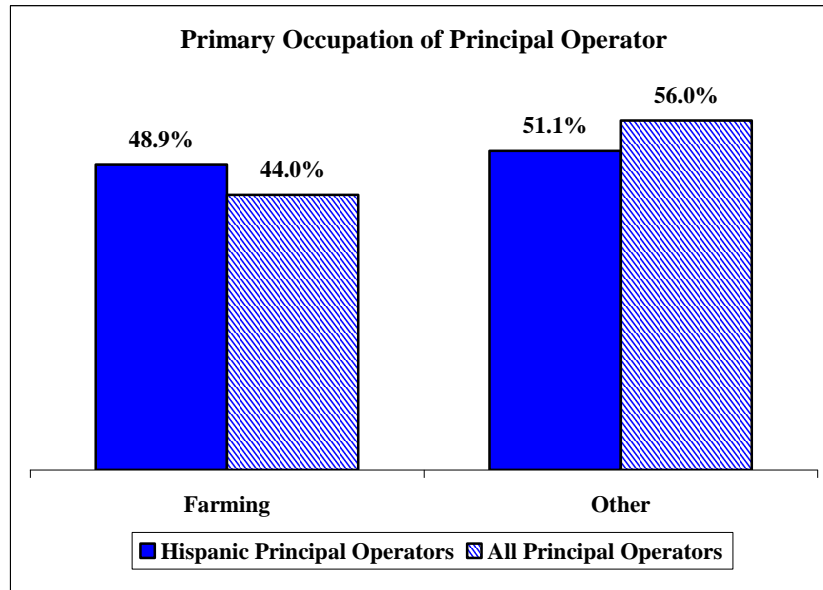
Figure 6



## 2.2 Primary Occupation

The percentage of Hispanic principal farm operators who reported farming as their primary occupation was slightly higher (49%) than the percentage of all principal operators (44%).

Figure 7



## 2.3 Work Off The Farm

Two-thirds of all principal operators in Florida worked some time off the farm in 2007, compared to just over three-fourths of Hispanic farm operators. Among all principal farm operators, 49% worked 100 days or more off the farm in 2007. Just over 56% of Hispanic farm operators worked 100 or more days off the farm.

Figure 8

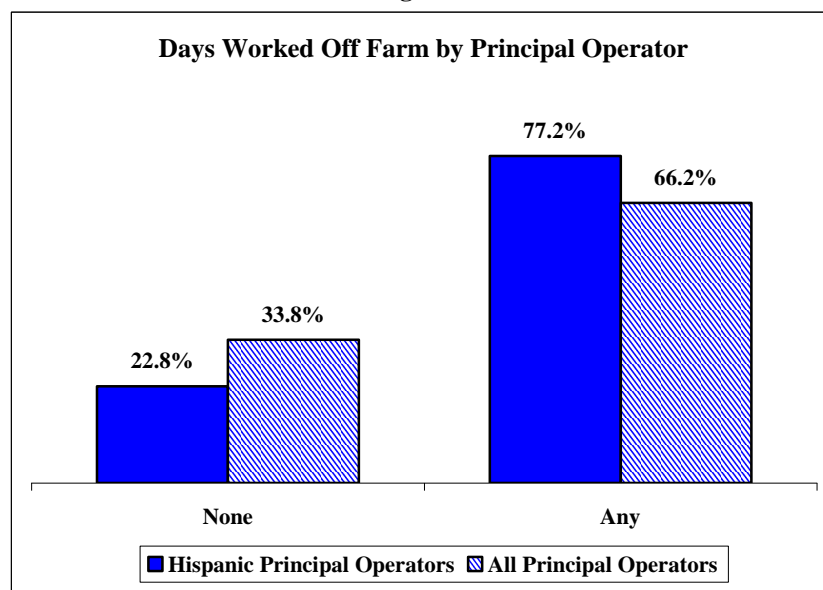
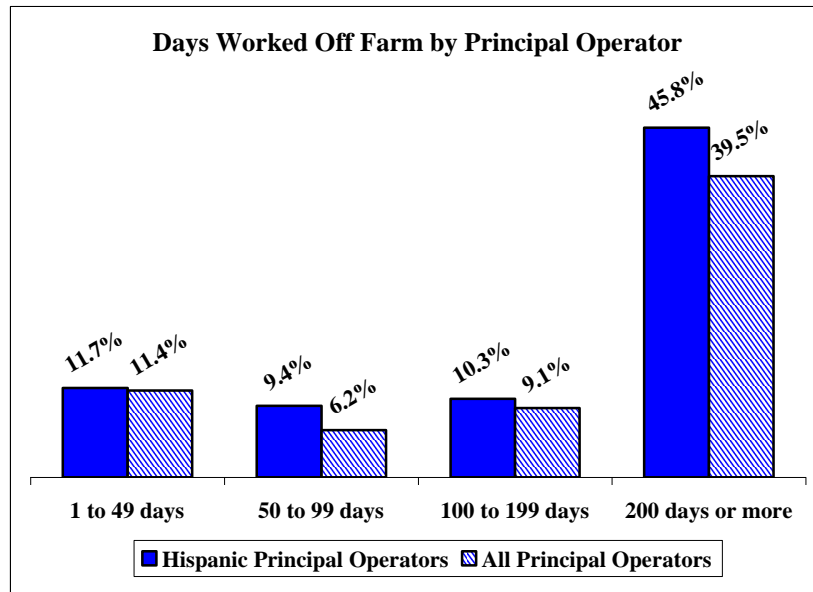




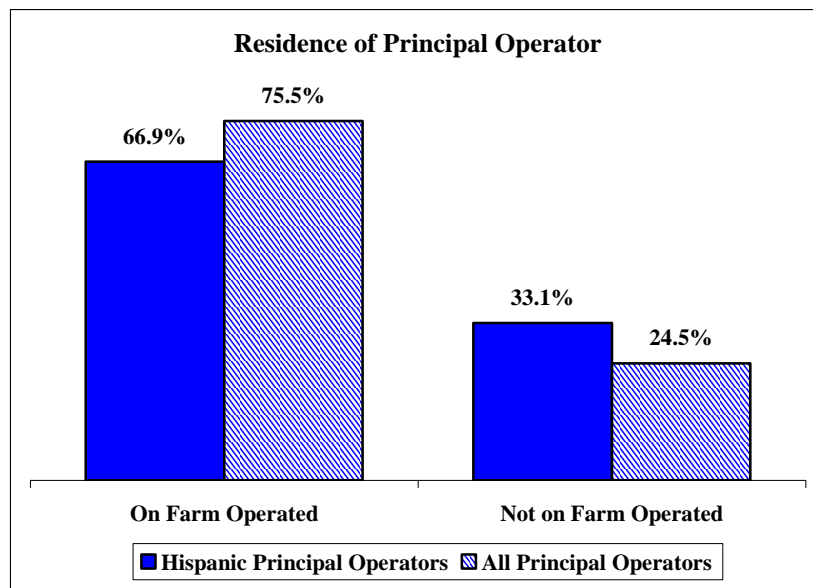
Figure 9



## 2.4 Residence

In Florida, 75% of all principal farm operators live on the farm they operate. The percentage among Hispanic principal farm operators (70%) is slightly lower.

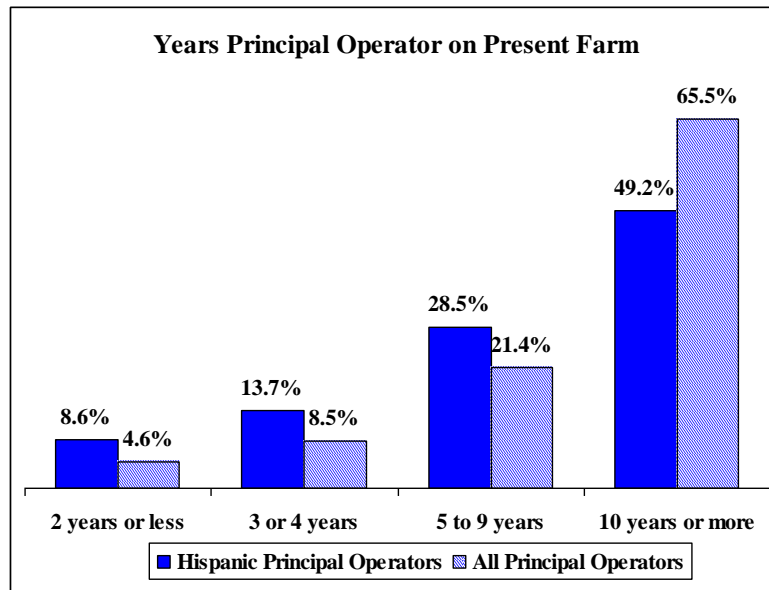
Figure 10



## 2.5 Years On the Farm

In Florida, 65% of all principal farm operators have been on their current farm for 10 years or more. The percentage among Hispanic principal farm operators (49%) is significantly lower. In contrast, 22% of Hispanic farm operators have been on their current farm for less than 5 years, compare to only 13% of all Florida farmers.

Figure 11



## 2.5 Age

The average age of all farmers in Florida is 58.4, compared to an average age of 54.2 among Hispanic farm operators. Thirty-two percent of all Florida farmers are 65 years of age or over, compared to only 23% of Hispanic farmers.

Figure 12

